

# Culprit: Air Pollution

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THE THREE-DAY meeting, ending Friday, of sanitary engineering specialists in the American Society of Civil Engineers has given Cincinnati some new insights into our national problems of land, water and air pollution. The main theme of the meeting was summed up in the topic of a talk by Assistant U. S. Surgeon General Mark D. Hollis, "Environment And Health—New Challenges."

One of the challenges is the gray-black daytime metropolitan atmosphere, which Los Angeles presents at its worst. And the problem is not only aesthetic. Evidence is accumulating that our city smogs, heavily laden with motor exhaust fumes, are related to the alarming increase in lung cancer deaths.

The American public may be too much preoccupied with the problem of cigarette smoking and lung cancer. Much interesting evidence of the role of air pollution is coming to light. The other day Dr. Clarence Cook Little, the noted cancer researcher and scientific director of the Tobacco Industry Research Committee, called attention to a fascinating study in the Union of South Africa.

This study, carried out by South Africa's Dr. Geoffrey Dean and published in the British Medical Journal, was based on male lung cancer deaths in that country from 1947 to 1956. It points out that white males in South Africa have long been the heaviest cigarette smokers in the world, yet they have a relatively low cancer mortality rate—a fact that calls for some explaining. But recently there has been a rapidly growing cancer mortality in the cities of South Africa.

The study disclosed that British immigrants, especially from large British cities, were pushing up the death rate from lung cancer. The incidence among this group was found to be much greater than among

white native-born men or male immigrants from other countries.

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DR. DEAN strongly suspects that the basic cause of the higher death rate among the British newcomers lay in their environment back in the British cities from which they came—in the smoke, smog and traffic fumes of modern living. And this is by no means the only research study pointing to atmospheric pollution as the major cause of lung cancer.

We have made much progress in cleaning up our land. We're working hard, at least in the Ohio Valley, to clean up our rivers. But we have only made traceries in the air over the problem of atmospheric pollution.

ENQUIRER-NEWS

Battle Creek, Michigan  
January 3, 1960

## South Africa Study Blames Dirty Air for Lung Cancer

NEW YORK — (UPD) — A research organization supported by the tobacco industry said Saturday a recent study in the Union of South Africa suggests that air pollution may be to blame for the reported increase in lung cancer throughout the world.

The Tobacco Institute, in its publication "Tobacco and Health," said the South African study was conducted by Dr. Geoffrey Dean of Port Elizabeth, South Africa. It was based on male lung cancer deaths in that country from 1947 to 1956, it said.

Dean found that white males in South Africa have been the heaviest cigarette smokers in the world for many years and yet relatively few of them have died of lung cancer.

His report, originally pub-

lished in the British Medical Journal, said that British men who moved to South Africa and died between the ages of 45 and 64 had a much higher lung cancer rate than either white men born in South Africa or male immigrants from other countries.

"The relatively low incidence of lung cancer generally among the heavy-smoking South African men, the higher and rapidly increasing incidence in the growing cities, and the high incidence in the younger age group of immigrants from Britain found in the present study, suggest that the air pollution, which occurs in modern industrial life—smoke, smog, traffic fumes, etc.—may be a major factor responsible for the alarming increase of lung cancer in South Africa and Britain, and presumably elsewhere."

ENQUIRER

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